

ROTARY CLUB OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP AND GREEN TEAM

SPONSOR FREE LEAD SCREENING FOR CHILDREN

The Rotary Club of Washington Township and the Sustainable Washington Township Green Team are partnering with the Township School District and local health care organizations to help families protect their children's health through a free lead screening event. This special screening, offered in collaboration with Virtua Pediatric Mobile Services and the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative, will be held on Saturday, November 16, from 9 am until Noon, at Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center.

Lead exposure poses serious health risks, especially to young children, as it can impact neurological development and cause various health problems. Despite significant progress in reducing lead in the environment, sources remain, such as dust, old paint, soil, and even certain toys, cosmetics, jewelry and plumbing. Lead is particularly dangerous to young children and unborn babies, who absorb it more easily than older children and adults.

Early detection is crucial to preventing lead poisoning. However, New Jersey's recent data reveals a concerning gap in testing among young children. According to the New Jersey Department of Health, in FY2022, only 10.2% of Washington Township children under six had been screened for lead exposure, compared to the statewide average of 23.1%.

Randy Carbone, President of the Washington Township Rotary, highlights Rotary International's focus on maternal and child health: "This screening event is an ideal way for us to support our community's children and increase these low testing numbers. With Virtua's Pediatric Mobile Services conveniently available, parents can ensure their kids are screened quickly and locally."

The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative will also participate by providing educational materials on "Healthy Homes," alongside tips for minimizing lead exposure in daily life. To make the event more enjoyable, children's activities are also planned.

Mayor Laurie Burns, a Green Team member, emphasized the importance of this opportunity: "The low screening rates were quite alarming, especially considering the robust healthcare presence in our

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community. This event provides a chance for parents to address an important health concern and strengthen the safety net for our youngest residents.” Support for the event has been generously provided by Sustainable Jersey.

The screening is voluntary, targeting children under six years of age, starting as young as six months. Parents must accompany their children and provide consent. The quick, on-site finger-prick test takes only a few minutes. Pregnant women are also eligible for screening.

Green Team Chair Vicky Binetti added, “This event showcases the power of partnership, bringing together healthcare providers, civic leaders, and local businesses to protect the health of our youngest citizens. It’s inspiring to see this community-focused collaboration in action.”

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LEAD
poisoning

Know the Facts

Lead poisoning is caused by swallowing or breathing lead. Children under 6 years old are most at risk. If you are pregnant, lead can harm your baby.

FACT Lead can cause learning and behavior problems.

Lead poisoning hurts the brain and nervous system. Some of the effects of lead poisoning may never go away.

Lead in a child's body can:

- Slow down growth and development
- Damage hearing and speech
- Make it hard to pay attention and learn

FACT Most children get lead poisoning from paint in homes built before 1978.

When old paint cracks and peels, it makes dangerous dust. The dust is so small you cannot see it. Most children get lead poisoning when they breathe or swallow the dust on their hands and toys.

FACT A lead test is the only way to know if your child has lead poisoning.

Most children who have lead poisoning do not look or act sick. Ask your doctor to test your child for lead.



Protect Your Family

1. Test your home for lead.

- If you live in a home built before 1978, have your home inspected by a licensed lead inspector.
- Contact your local health department for more information.

Sometimes lead comes from things other than paint in your home, such as:

- Candy, toys, glazed pottery, and folk medicine made in other countries
- Work like auto refinishing, construction, and plumbing
- Soil and tap water

2. Keep children away from lead paint and dust.

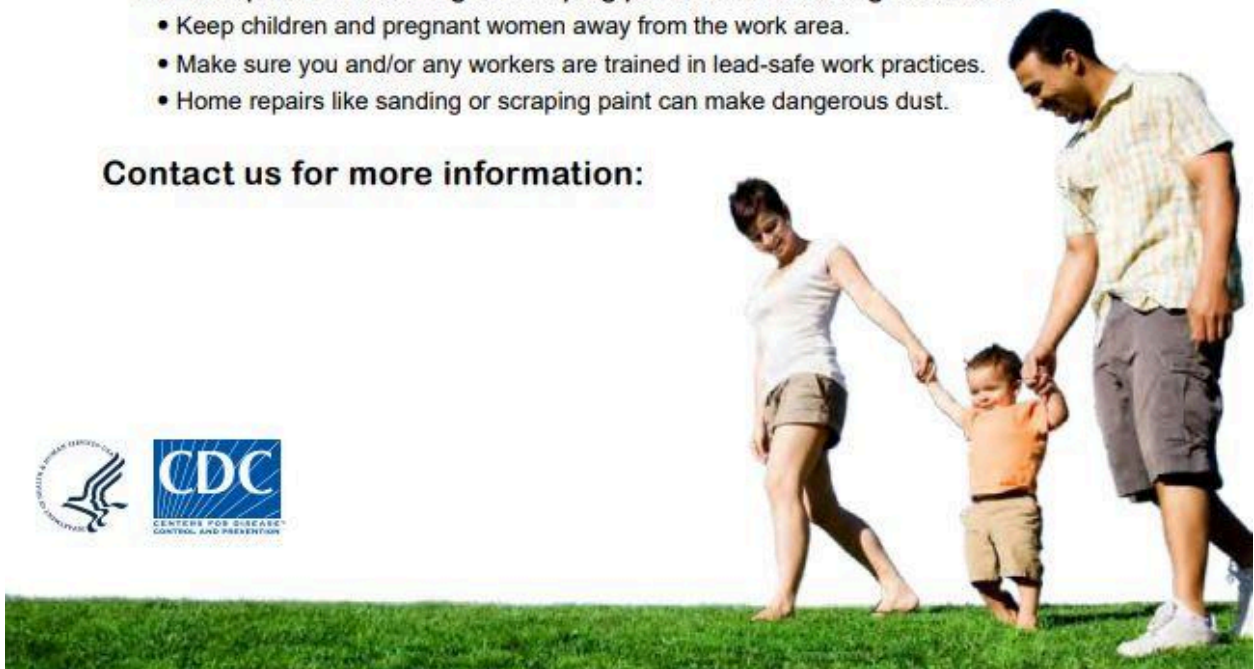
- Use wet paper towels to clean up lead dust. Be sure to clean around windows, play areas, and floors.
- Wash hands and toys often, especially before eating and sleeping. Use soap and water.
- Use contact paper or duct tape to cover chipping or peeling paint.

3. Renovate safely.

Home repairs like sanding or scraping paint can make dangerous dust.

- Keep children and pregnant women away from the work area.
- Make sure you and/or any workers are trained in lead-safe work practices.
- Home repairs like sanding or scraping paint can make dangerous dust.

Contact us for more information:



Are You Pregnant?



PREVENT LEAD POISONING START NOW

Lead poisoning is caused by breathing in or swallowing items contaminated with lead. Lead can pass from a mother to her unborn baby. The good news is that **lead poisoning is preventable**.

Too much lead in your body can

- Put you at risk for miscarriage.
- Cause your baby to be born too early or too small.
- Hurt your baby's brain, kidneys, and nervous system.
- Cause your child to have learning or behavior problems.

Lead can be found in

- Paint and dust in older homes, especially dust from renovation or repairs.
- Candy, cosmetics, glazed pots, and some traditional medicines and spices from other countries.
- Certain jobs such as auto refinishing, construction, and plumbing.
- Toys and jewelry.
- Soil and drinking water from lead pipes, faucets, and plumbing fixtures.



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Now is the time to keep you and your baby safe from lead poisoning. Here's what you can do:

- 1 Watch out for lead in your home.** Most lead comes from paint in homes built before 1978. When old paint cracks and peels, it creates lead dust and lead chips. The dust is so small you cannot see it. You can breathe in lead dust and not even know it.

Home repairs and renovations, such as sanding or scraping paint, in homes built before 1978 can make lead dust.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, leave the house when someone is

- Removing lead paint.
- Cleaning up after removing lead paint.
- Remodeling a room that might have lead paint.

Tip: If you live in a home built before 1978, have your home inspected by a licensed lead inspector. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

- 2 Avoid certain jobs or hobbies.** Some jobs can expose you to lead, such as construction and renovation or repair of homes built before 1978, and battery manufacturing or recycling. Some hobbies can expose you to lead, such as renovating homes, making glazed pottery, or shooting at firing ranges.

If someone who lives with you works with or takes part in activities that involve lead, have them change into clean clothing before coming home. Keep their work or activity shoes and tools outside and wash their clothes separately from the rest of the family's clothes.

- 3 Talk to your doctor.** Talk to your doctor about any medicines, vitamins, home remedies, or supplements you are taking. Be sure to tell your doctor about any cravings you might have, such as eating dirt or clay, which might contain lead.

- 4 Avoid certain foods and cosmetics.** Use caution when eating anything brought into the United States by travelers from other countries. Some candy, candy wrappers, spices and other foods, cosmetics, traditional medicines, and ceremonial or religious powders contain lead. For more information, see <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/prevention/sources/foods-cosmetics-medicines.htm>.

- 5 Store and serve food properly.** Some dishes and serving containers contain lead. Be sure to cook, serve, and store food properly.

- Avoid using imported lead-glazed ceramic pottery.
- Avoid using pewter or brass containers or utensils.
- Avoid using leaded crystal to serve or store beverages.

- 6 Eat foods with calcium, iron, and vitamin C.** These foods may help keep lead out of your unborn baby's developing body.

- Calcium is in milk, yogurt, cheese, and green leafy vegetables such as spinach.
- Iron is in lean red meat, beans, peanut butter, and cereals.
- Vitamin C is in oranges, green and red peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, and juices.

More information about the topics in this fact sheet can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/>